

Grand Jury Report

REQUIRED RESPONSE FORM

Grand Jury Report Title : MEASURE B RE-EXAMINED

Report Dated : July 14, 2022

Response Form Submitted By:

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
501 Low Gap Road
Ukiah, CA 95482 (use address block as inserted on first page)

Response MUST be submitted, per Penal Code §933.05, no later than: October 12, 2022

I have reviewed the report and submit my responses to the FINDINGS portion of the report as follows:

- I (we) agree with the Findings numbered:
F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F7, F8

- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the Findings numbered below, and have *attached* a statement specifying any portion of the Finding that are disputed with an explanation of the reasons therefore.
F6

I have reviewed the report and submit my responses to the RECOMMENDATIONS portion of the report as follows:

- The following Recommendation(s) have been implemented and **attached, as required**, is a summary describing the implemented actions:
R1, R4

- The following Recommendation(s) have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future; **attached, as required**, is a time frame for implementation:

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- The following Recommendation(s) require further analysis, and **attached, as required**, is an explanation and the scope and parameters of the planned analysis, and a time frame for the matter to be prepared, discussed and approved by the officer and/or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed: (This time frame shall not exceed six (6) months from the date of publication of the Grand Jury Report)

R2

- The following Recommendations will NOT be implemented because they are not warranted and/or are not deemed reasonable; **attached, as required**, is an explanation therefore:

I have completed the above responses, and have attached, as required the following number of pages to this response form:

Number of Pages attached: 3

I understand that responses to Grand Jury Reports are public records. They will be posted on the Grand Jury website: www.mendocinocounty.org/government/grand-jury. The clerk of the responding agency is required to maintain a copy of the response.

I understand that I must submit this signed response form and any attachments as follows:

First Step: E-mail in pdf file format to:


- The Grand Jury Foreperson at: grandjury@mendocinocounty.org
- The Presiding Judge: grandjury@mendocino.courts.ca.gov

Second Step: Mail all originals to:

Mendocino County Grand Jury
P.O. Box 939
Ukiah, CA 95482

Printed Name: Ted Williams

Title: Chair, Board of Supervisors

Signed: 

Date: 13 SEPT 2022

MENDOCINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT TITLED:

MEASURE B: RE-EXAMINED

Discussion

The Board of Supervisors welcomes this opportunity to respond to the Grand Jury report titled "Measure B: Re-Examined". Current Grand Jury procedures state: "findings are the conclusions or judgements that logically flow from the verified facts." In that regard, the Board of Supervisors encourages the Grand Jury to focus on verified facts and avoid unsubstantiated opinions that tend to inflame instead of inform discussion of this critical issue.

Pursuant to the request of the Grand Jury, the Board is responding to the following:

- F1. The wording of the Measure B ordinance was very precise on the collection of the taxes. The ordinance was imprecise about the execution of the programs. There is insufficient organizational direction in the Measure B Ordinance. This has resulted in a lack of ground rules for discussions and making recommendations to the BOS.

The respondent agrees with the finding.

- F2. In the Measure B Ordinance, the responsibilities of the B Committee were unclear, resulting in members assuming authority which belonged to the BOS.

The respondent agrees with the finding.

- F3. There has been no direct funding for SUDT as recommended in the Measure B Ordinance and the Kemper Report. The GJ determined this to be a serious oversight.

The respondent agrees with the finding.

- F4. A required function of the B Committee is to review annual audits and to ensure transparent use of funds. Annual independent audits of taxpayers' money were not performed resulting in no definitive answer to what funds are available or have been expended.

The respondent agrees with the finding.

- F5. The first 15 months of operations are excluded from the commissioned audits. Not starting from day one does not give a complete financial picture.

The respondent agrees with the finding.

- F6. The high vacancy rate of County employees, particularly for social service workers and nursing staff, has raised concern. Contractors for staffing the new programs and facilities may have difficulty employing sufficient local staff. This problem plagued the previous PHF facility which led to its closure.

The respondent partially agrees with the finding. The closure of the previous PHF facility was due to a variety of issues, not just the difficulty employing sufficient local staff.

- F7. The GJ and service providers are concerned that SUDT programs will not receive adequate attention and funding under Measure B.

The respondent agrees with the finding.

- F8. The GJ is concerned that the high costs to construct the PFH facility may reduce funds available for other proposed services and programs.

The respondent agrees with the finding.

Response to Recommendations:

- R1. In future ordinances prepared for ballot measures, the function and responsibility of County Departments, Advisory Boards and Committees be spelled out in greater detail. (F1, F2)

The recommendation has been implemented. The Board, working with County Counsel, will include greater detail in future special tax ordinances.

- R2. The BOS fund SUDT programs as required by Measure B Ordinance No. 4387. (F3, F7)

This recommendation requires further analysis. Measure B funds have been provided indirectly for SUDT through Respite Care, the Crisis Residential Treatment Center and other programs. The Board and Committee will consider additional funding for SUDT programs in their future meetings.

- R4. The BOS give direction to staff to identify and pursue additional funding to supplement the Measure B one-eighth cent sales tax by applying for grants and State funding. (F4, F8)

The recommendation has been implemented. Behavioral Health reports in the CEO report of Aug. 16, 2022, "Staff are carefully reviewing potential grant options to enhance or expand our services wherever we can." The BOS has already directed staff to identify and pursue grant funding. This has happened with the 4 year crisis response grant received to expand dual response (mobile crisis) with law enforcement. Additional grants have been and are being applied for to increase NAMI's outreach, engagement and peer support. Behavioral Health is

also researching and reviewing grants to further the Measure B funds available for the PHF.